IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A protective helmet assembly, comprising:

a shell constructed from at least para-aramid to provide ballistic protection;

a suspension band attached to the shell;

~~an adjustable~~ a headband adjustable to different circumferences connected to the suspension band only at points remote from said suspension band attachment to the shell; and

a crown pad connected to the suspension band only at points separate from (i) said suspension band attachment to said shell and ~~independent from~~ (ii) said adjustable headband connections to said suspension band.

2. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein said shell is constructed from at least one of a woven material and a Polyvinylbutyral/ Phenolic resin system.

3. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein said shell is primed using one of a paint and a Type II Aliphatic Polyurethane.

4. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the headband is directly secured to the suspension band via loops and the crown pad is directly secured to the suspension band via loops and straps.

5. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 4, wherein each of the loops that attach the headband to the suspension band is formed of nylon and include a hook-and-loop fastener.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 5, wherein the nylon is in a form of a strap that is folded into a loop.

8. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 4, wherein the loops and straps that attach the crown pad to the suspension band are formed of nylon.

9. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 4, wherein the loops that attach the crown pad to the suspension band comprise first rear loops and second rear loops, the first rear loops being attached to the suspension band, and the second rear loops being attached to the first rear loops and the crown pad.

10. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 9, wherein the first rear loops are formed of nylon straps and the second rear loops are formed of nylon cord.

11. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the suspension band is attached to the shell via metal fasteners.

12. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 11, wherein at least some of the metal fasteners comprise a screw and a clip, the screw having a head portion and a threaded portion, the clip portion for receiving the threaded portion.

13. (Previously Amended) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, further comprising a nape pad for fore and aft positioning of the protective helmet assembly relative to a nape of a neck of a wearer.

14. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 13, wherein the suspension band is attached to the shell via metal fasteners, and the nape pad is attached to the shell via at least some of the metal fasteners.

15. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 14, wherein the metal fasteners maintain the suspension band in a fixed position with respect to the shell while the at least some of the metal fasteners provide adjustment of the fore and aft positioning of the protective helmet assembly relative to the nape of the neck of the wearer.

16. (Previously Amended) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, further comprising a chin strap subassembly for securing a position of the protective helmet assembly relative to a chin of a wearer.

17. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 16, wherein the suspension band is attached to the shell via metal fasteners, and the chin strap subassembly is attached to the shell via at least some of the metal fasteners.

18. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 17, wherein the metal fasteners maintain the suspension band in a fixed position with respect to the shell while the at least some of the metal fasteners provide adjustment of the position of the protective helmet assembly relative to the chin of the wearer.

19. (Previously Amended) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the suspension band is attached to the shell via metal fasteners, and the assembly further comprises a nape pad and chin strap subassembly attached to the shell via at least some of the metal fasteners.

20. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 19, wherein the metal fasteners maintain the suspension band in a fixed position with respect to the shell while the at least some of the metal fasteners provide adjustment of a position of the nape pad and chin strap subassembly.

Claims 21 – 29. (Cancelled).

30. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the suspension band comprises a nylon band.

31. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the crown pad is disposed away from the inner surface of the shell to allow air circulation between the crown pad and the inner surface of the shell.

32. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the crown pad comprises an outer leather ring and an inner nylon mesh portion, the inner mesh portion for allowing air to contact a crown of a wearer.

33. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the suspension band is disposed around an inner surface of the shell so as to allow air to pass between the suspension band and the inner surface of the shell.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the adjustable headband is adapted to be directly secured to the suspension band so as to form an adjustable portion that adjusts to the shape of the head of the user independent of the suspension band and the shell.

36. (Original) The protective helmet assembly of claim 1, wherein the adjustable headband is capable of being arranged within the protective helmet assembly so as to provide a readily adaptable portion away from the plurality of connectors.